

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled) An apparatus for forming an injection molded article, the apparatus comprising

a mold, said mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts having at least one aperture therein,

at least one mold insert sized and dimensioned to be received within said at least one aperture, such that a surface of said insert is substantially contiguous with the surface of said mold cavity, said insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on said surface and

means for retracting said mold insert from said mold after an article has been molded therein, whereby said molded hooks are released from said hook-shaped cavities before said mold is opened.

2. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the draft angle of said hook-forming surface of said insert is less than about 45°.

3. (Withdrawn) In an injection molding apparatus comprising

a mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts having at least one aperture therein,

at least one insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on a surface thereof, said at least one insert being receivable in said at least one aperture to define a field of molded hooks on a surface of an article molded in said injection molding apparatus, and

means for retracting said insert from said molded article, the improvement wherein the draft angle of said hook-forming surface of said insert is less than about 45°.

4. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the draft angle of said hook-forming

surface of said insert is less than about 45°.

5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said retractor means is operated by means selected from the group consisting of hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, mechanical, and manual.
6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said insert comprises a plurality of stacked plates, each plate having one or more hook-shaped cavities formed in one edge thereof.
7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said insert further comprises one or more spacer plates alternating between said hook-cavity plates.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a molded article, the method comprising,
providing a mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity when said two or more parts are assembled, at least one of said parts having at least one aperture through a first wall thereof,
providing at least one insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on a surface thereof, said at least one insert being receivable in said at least one aperture,
positioning said at least one mold insert in said at least one aperture such that said cavity-bearing surface of said mold insert is in communication with said mold cavity when said mold parts are assembled,
assembling said two or more mold parts to define said mold cavity,
molding an article in said mold cavity, said article having a field of molded hooks formed on a surface thereof,
retracting said mold insert to release said molded hooks from said mold insert, and
removing said molded article from said mold cavity in a removing direction, the angle

between said removing direction and said first wall having said aperture therethrough [[said hook-bearing surface of said molded article]] being less than about 45°.

9. (Canceled) The method of claim 8 wherein the draft angle of the hook-forming surface of the insert is less than about 45°.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said molding step is selected from the group consisting of injection molding, compression molding and blow molding.

11. (Withdrawn) A molded article having a field of hooks integrally formed on a surface thereof, said article formed in a mold having a cavity with a hook forming surface, said hook-bearing surface of said molded article having a draft angle of less than about 45° with respect to the direction of its removal from said mold cavity.

12. (Canceled) The method of claim 8 wherein said molded article comprises a plurality of wall members that define a three-dimensional object, at least one surface of at least one of said wall members being a hook-bearing surface, the draft angle of said at least one hook-bearing surface of said at least one wall member being less than about 45°.

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 8 wherein at least a portion of said molded article is generally in the configuration of an integrally molded box, and said hook-bearing surface of said molded article comprises a surface of a side of said box.

14. (Previously amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said hook-bearing surface of said molded article comprises an inner surface of a side of said box.

15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said hook-bearing surface of said molded article comprises an outer surface of a side of said box.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said angle between said removing direction and said first wall having said aperture therethrough [[hook-bearing surface of said molded article]] is substantially 0°.

17. (Currently amended) In a method of forming a molded article, the method comprising the steps of (a) providing a mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts comprising a first wall having at least one aperture therein, (b) providing at least one insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on a surface thereof, said at least one insert being receivable in said at least one aperture, (c) positioning said at least one mold insert in said at least one aperture such that said cavity-bearing surface of said mold insert is in communication with said mold cavity when said mold parts are assembled, (d) assembling said two or more mold parts to define a mold cavity, (e) molding an article in said mold cavity, said article having a field of molded hooks formed on a surface thereof to define a hook-bearing surface, and (f) removing said molded article from said mold cavity in a removing direction, the improvement comprising the angle between said removing direction and said first wall of said mold part [[hook-bearing surface of said molded article]] being less than about 45°, the method including the further step of retracting said mold insert to release said molded hooks from said mold insert prior to removing said molded article from said mold cavity.